

REMARKS

At the time the Office Action was mailed, claims 1 to 40 were pending. Claims 20 to 31 were withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9, and 15-19 stand rejected, while claims 3, 8, 10-14, and 32-40 have been identified as containing allowable subject matter. The Examiner is cordially thanked for issuing the Office Action and in particular for indicating the allowability of several of the claims.

The present amendment cancels claims 1, 7, and 9, and the previously withdrawn claims 20 to 31, and adds new claims 41 to 56. Thus, the total number of claims is increased by one and the number of independent claims has increased by three, from five to eight. The Commissioner is authorized to charge the additional claim fees associated with the amendment to our Deposit Account no. 19-1800.

Allowable subject matter

Claims 3, 8, 10-14 and 32-40 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were stated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Attorney for applicant has rewritten claim 3 by including the subject matter of claim 1 and omitting any superfluous words of formal nature.

Moreover, any reference to claim 1 in the dependent claims has been changed into a reference to claim 3. (see claims 2, 4, 6, 15, 16)

Attorney for applicant has rewritten claim 8 by including the subject matter of claims 1 and 7, and omitting any superfluous words of formal nature. Part of the subject matter of claim 6, previously presented as an intermediate claim, has become moot in view of the subject matter of previously presented claim 7, and therefore it has not been fully included into claim 8.

Attorney for applicant has rewritten claim 10 by including the subject matter of claims 1 and 9, and omitting any superfluous words of formal nature. Part of the subject matter of claim 6, previously presented as an intermediate claim, has become moot in view of the subject matter of previously presented claim 9, and therefore it has not been fully included into claim 10.

Attorney for applicant has rewritten claim 11 by including the subject matter of claim 1 and omitting any superfluous words of formal nature.

Attorney for applicant has rewritten claim 13 by including the subject matter of claim 1 and omitting any superfluous words of formal nature.

Attorney for applicant has rewritten claim 32 by including the subject matter of claim 1 and omitting any superfluous words of formal nature.

Attorney for applicant has rewritten claim 33 by including the subject matter of claim 1 and omitting any superfluous words of formal nature.

The remaining claims are all ultimately dependent on one of the allowable independent claims.

Rejections under 35 USC 102(e)

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9, 15-19 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) in view of Shah *et al* (US. Pat. 6,909,667).

Claims 1, 7, 9 have been canceled, and claims 2, 4, 6, 15, 16 have been amended to change the dependency to allowable claim 3. Hence the rejections of claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9, and 15-17 have become moot.

As to claims 18 and 19, the Office Action states that three subs in Shah *et al* are defined as 14, 28, and 30 and that all of the subs define multiple telemetry systems.

Claim 18 has been amended to include the recite presence of "converters between the sub-telemetry systems for relaying signals from one sub-telemetry system to another". This is based on lines 3-6 on page 19 of the original specification, where it is stated "The converter 28 performs 2-way signal conversion so that signal may be relayed from one sub-telemetry system to another" and "multiple converters may be used (...) between sub-telemetry systems".

The amendment overcomes the rejection, because Shah *et al* do not disclose a converter between drill collars 28 and drill string 14. Moreover, Attorney for Applicant submits that, contrary to the Examiner's interpretation of Shah, the drill collars in Shah *et al* as such do not represent a sub-telemetry system. Instead, and as taught by Shah *et al* (Col. 6 lines 28-34), the drill collars are used to add weight to bit.

New claims

New claims 41-56 have been added, all of which in dependent form.

Claims 41 and 49 are based on previously presented claim 4;

Claims 42 and 50 are based on previously presented claim 5;

Claims 43 and 51 are based on previously presented claim 6;

Claims 44 and 52 are based on previously presented claim 15;

Claims 45 and 53 are based on previously presented claim 16;

Claims 46 and 54 are based on previously presented claim 17;

Claims 47 and 55 are based on previously presented claim 32;

Claim 48 is based on previously presented claim 2;

Claim 56 is based on previously presented claim 3.

Since new claims 41 to 55 each ultimately depends on an allowable base claim, each of these claims should be allowable, as well.

New claim 56 depends on claim 18, in respect of which it has been argued above that the rejection made is not applicable. Hence, the rejection is not applicable to this new claim, either.

Concluding remarks

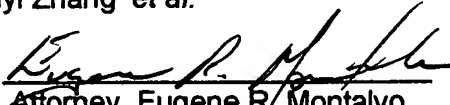
The present response is fully responsive to every ground of objection and rejection raised in the Office Action, and reconsideration is requested. It is respectfully submitted that the specification and claims, be it original, new or amended, are a condition ready for allowance.

In the event any fee is due in respect of the present response to Office Action, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the appropriate amount to Deposit Account Nr. 19-1800, or to credit the account for any excess fees paid.

In the event the Examiner has any questions or issues regarding the present application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned prior to the issuance of any written action.

Respectfully submitted,

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